

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-12. Canceled.

13. (Currently Amended) A computer system for passing data ~~from a node to another node~~ along a workflow route including a plurality of nodes, based upon a business process definition defining a route of passing data, said computer system comprising:

a plurality of computers each serving as a workflow server and accommodating a plurality of client terminals each operative as one of nodes on the workflow route;

a storage means for storing a first business process definition including an exit node, said first business process definition defining a first route of passing data among a first group of client terminals and being defined in at least belonging to a first one of said plurality of computers, and a second business process definition including an entrance node, said second business process definition defining a second route of passing data among a second group of client terminals and being defined in at least belonging to a second one of said plurality of computers; and

an information generation means for generating coalition information providing correspondence between said exit node of said first business process definition, and said entrance node of said second business process definition; ~~and,~~

wherein said first one of said plurality of computers includes a passing control means for passing said data from said exit node of said first business process definition; to said second one of said plurality of computers corresponding to said entrance node of said second business process definition, based upon said coalition information, so that said data is passed through a route ~~including~~ comprising said first route and said second route.

14. (Currently Amended) A computer system according to claim 13, wherein each of said first business process definition and said second business process definition is stored in the ~~respective individual~~ storage means of different associated with said first and said second computers, respectively.

15. (Currently Amended) A computer system according to claim 13, further comprising:

an allocating means for allocating said first business process definition and said second business process definition to different computers.

16. (Currently Amended) A computer system for passing data along a workflow route including a plurality of nodes~~from a node to another node~~, based upon a business process definition defining a route of passing data, said computer system comprising:

a plurality of computers each serving as a workflow server and accommodating a plurality of client terminals each operative as one of nodes on the workflow route;

a storage means for storing a first business process definition including a call node and a return node, said first business process definition defining a first route of passing data among a first group of client terminals belonging to and being defined in at least a first one of said plurality of computers, and a second business process definition including an entrance node and an exit node, said second business process definition defining a second route of passing data among a second group of client terminals belonging to and being defined in at least a second one of said plurality of computers;

a coalition information generation means for generating correspondence between said call node of said first business process definition, and said entrance node of said second business process definition, and for generating correspondence between said exit node of said second business process definition, and said return node of said first business process definition; and

wherein said first one of said plurality of computers includes a passing control means for passing said data from said call node of said first business process definition; to said second one of said plurality of computers corresponding to said entrance node of said second business process definition, and for receiving said data at said return node of said first business process definition, from said exit node of said second business process definition, based upon said coalition information, so that said data is passed through a route including comprising said first route and said second route.

17. (Currently Amended) A computer system according to claim 16, further comprising:

a display device controlled by a computer, for displaying a business process definition defining a route of passing data, said display device displaying said call node in a display mode different from display modes of other nodes.

18. (Previously Presented) A computer system according to claim 16, wherein said call node and said return node are different nodes.

19. (Currently Amended) A computer system according to claim 16, wherein each of said first business process definition and said second business process definition is stored in the ~~respective~~individual storage means ~~of different~~associated with said first and said second computers, respectively.

20. (Currently Amended) A computer system according to claim 16, further comprising:

an allocating means for allocating said first business process definition and said second business process definition to different computers.

21. (Currently Amended) A computer system for passing data along a workflow route including a plurality of nodes~~from a node to another node~~, based upon a business process definition defining a route of passing data, said computer system comprising:

a plurality of computers each serving as a workflow server and accommodating a plurality of client terminals each operative as one of nodes on the workflow route;

a storage means for storing a first business process definition including a call node and a return node, said first business process definition defining a first route of passing data among a first group of client terminals belonging to~~and being defined in at least a first one of said plurality of computers~~, and a second business process definition including an entrance node and an exit node, said second business process definition defining a second route of passing data among a second group of client terminals belonging to~~and being defined in at least a second one of said plurality of computers~~; and

an interface information passing means for passing interface information relating to said call node and said return node of said first business process definition, to said second one of said plurality of computers having a storage means storing said second business process definition including said entrance node and said exit node, so that said data is passed through a route including comprising said first route and said second route.

22. (Currently Amended) A method for passing data along a workflow route including a plurality of nodes~~from a node to another node~~, based upon a business process

definition defining a route of passing data, by use of a computer system, said method comprising the steps of:

storing a first business process definition including an exit node, and a second business process definition including an entrance node, said first business process definition defining a first route of passing data among a first group of client terminals ~~and being defined in at least~~ belonging to a first one of a plurality of computers in said computer system, and said second business process definition defining a second route of passing data among a second group of client terminals ~~and being defined in at least~~ belonging to a second one of said plurality of computers;

generating coalition information providing correspondence between said exit node of said first business process definition, and said entrance node of said second business process definition; and

passing said data from said exit node of said first business process definition, to said second one of said plurality of computers corresponding to said entrance node of said second business process definition, based upon said coalition information, so that said data is passed according to a route ~~including~~ comprising said first route and said second route.

23. (Currently Amended) A method for passing data along a workflow route including a plurality of nodes ~~from a node to another node~~, based upon a business process definition defining a route of passing data, by use of a computer system, said method comprising the steps of:

storing a first business process definition including a call node and a return node, and a second business process definition including an entrance node and an exit node, said first business process definition defining a first route of passing data among a first group of client terminals ~~and being defined in at least belonging to~~ a first one of a plurality of computers in said computer system, and said second business process definition defining a second route of passing data among a second group of client terminals ~~and being defined in at least belonging to~~ a second one of said plurality of computers;

generating a coalition information for providing a correspondence between said call node of said first business process definition, and said entrance node of said second business process definition, and for providing correspondence between said exit node of said second business process definition, and said return node of said first business process definition; and

passing said data from said call node of said first business process definition, to said entrance node of said second business process definition, and receiving said data at said return node of said first business process definition, from said exit node of said second business process definition, based upon the coalition information, so that said data is passed according to a route ~~including comprising~~ said first route and said second route.

24. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 23, further comprising:

a step performed by a display device controlled by said computer system, of displaying said business process definition defining said route of passing data, and displaying said call node in a display mode different from display modes of other nodes.

25. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 23, wherein said call node and said return node are different nodes.

26. (Currently Amended) A method for passing data along a workflow route including a plurality of nodes~~from a node to another node~~, based upon a business process definition defining a route of passing data, by use of a computer system, said method comprising the steps of:

storing a first business process definition including a call node and a return node, said first business process definition defining a first route of passing data among a first group of client terminals belonging to~~and being defined in at least~~ a first one of a plurality of computers in said computer system, and a second business process definition including an entrance node and an exit node, said second business process definition defining a second route of passing data among a second group of client terminals belonging to~~and being defined in at least~~ a second one of said plurality of computers; and

passing interface information relating to said call node and said return node of said first business process definition, to said second one of said plurality of computers having a storage means for storing said second business process definition

including said entrance node and said exit node, so that said data is passed according to a route ~~including comprising~~ said first route and said second route.

27. (Currently Amended) A program product for use with a computer system passing data along a workflow route including a plurality of nodes~~from a node to another node~~, based upon a business process definition defining a route of passing data, having a computer readable medium storing a computer program comprising:

a process of storing a first business process definition including an exit node, and a second business process definition including an entrance node, said first business process definition defining a first route of passing data among a first group of client terminals belonging to ~~and being defined in at least a first one of a plurality of~~ computers in said computer system, and said second business process definition defining a second route of passing data among a second group of client terminals belonging to ~~and being defined in at least a second one of said plurality of~~ computers;

a process of generating coalition information providing correspondence between said exit node of said first business process definition, and said entrance node of said second business process definition; and

a process of passing said data from said exit node of said first business process definition, to said second one of said plurality of computers corresponding to said entrance node of said second business process definition, based upon said coalition information, to pass said data through a route ~~including comprising~~ said first route and said second route.

28. (Currently Amended) A program product for use with a computer system passing data along a workflow route including a plurality of nodes~~from a node to another node~~, based upon a business process definition defining a route of passing data, having a computer readable medium storing a computer program comprising:

a process of storing a first business process definition including a call node and a return node, and a second business process definition including an entrance node and an exit node, said first business process definition defining a first route of passing data among a first group of client terminals belonging to~~and being defined in at least a~~ first one of a plurality of computers in said computer system, and said second business process definition defining a second route of passing data among a second group of client terminals belonging~~and being defined in at least a~~ second one of said plurality of computers;

a process of generating a coalition information for providing a correspondence between said call node of said first business process definition, and said entrance node of said second business process definition, and for providing correspondence between said exit node of said second business process definition, and said return node of said first business process definition; and

a process of passing said data from said call node of said first business process definition, to said second one of said plurality of computers corresponding to said entrance node of said second business process definition, and for receiving said data at said return node of said first business process definition, from said exit node of said

second business process definition, based upon the coalition information, to pass said data through a route ~~including~~ comprising said first route and said second route.

29. (Currently Amended) A program product according to claim 28, further comprising:

a process performed by a display device controlled by said computer, of displaying a business process definition defining said route of passing data, and displaying said call node in a display mode different from display modes of other nodes.

30. (Previously Presented) A program product according to claim 28, wherein said call node and said return node are different nodes.

31. (Currently Amended) A program product for use with a computer system passing data along a workflow route including a plurality of nodes ~~from a node to another node~~, based upon a business process definition defining a route of passing data, having a computer readable medium storing a computer program comprising:

a process of storing a first business process definition including a call node and a return node, said first business process definition defining a first route of passing data among a first group of client terminals belonging to ~~and being defined in at least a~~ first one of a plurality of computers in said computer system, and a second business process definition including an entrance node and an exit node, said second business process definition defining a second route of passing data among a second group of client

~~terminals belonging to and being defined in at least~~ a second one of said plurality of computers; and

a process of passing interface information relating to said call node and said return node of said first business process definition, to said second one of said plurality of computers having a storage means storing said second business process definition including said entrance node and said exit node to pass said data through a route ~~including comprising~~ said first route and said second route.